

2 April 1986
MBK-6005

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Bangkok Bureau -- March 1986

I. GENERAL

A. On the 27th, a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at Bang Ping to officially inaugurate the Bangkok ROSET facility. A number of invited Thai guests, including Khun Piya Chakkaphak, director of the National Intelligence Agency, and several of his top assistants; the director general of Aerothai; officials of the Aviation Ministry; and others, joined a group of Embassy officers and FBIS employees and their wives to witness Ambassador William Brown dedicate the installation. The Ambassador recalled in particular his two tours in Moscow during which he was an avid user of the FBIS product. Following the actual ribbon cutting at antenna 3, the group returned to the operations room for a tour of the facility. The bureau engineer and cruising officer explained and demonstrated the workings of ROSET to the approximately 70 people in attendance. Meanwhile, several simultaneous videotaped presentations of some of the more interesting material monitored thus far were shown. Many present were also interested in the variety of publications put out by FBIS as well as in the newspapers of various countries covered by the Bureau which were on display. In fact, several subscription requests for JPRS publications were received. Light refreshments then capped a very successful afternoon.

B. After a long struggle, a line from the local AFP office to the Embassy and from there to the Bureau was finally secured on the 17th. After testing the line for several days and then coordinating with Hong Kong and Nicosia Bureaus as well as MOD, Bangkok Bureau resumed AFP coverage responsibilities on 25 March. In addition to its own coverage area, Bangkok covers Hong Kong Bureau's area following their closure until our own closure at 1730 GMT.

C. On the 20th, the Bureau Chief and Deputy were invited to give the major presentation at the meeting of the recently formed Indochina Coordination Group. The Bureau Chief outlined the Bureau's mission and capabilities and discussed how those present could make use of our services. The Deputy Chief presented a videotape of footage of Vietnam party leader Le Duan's recent appearances to illustrate his apparent decline in health between September 1985 and February 1986.

D. On 28 March, the Bureau Chief attended a luncheon in honor of the outgoing DCM, Charles Freeman, who returned to a Washington that day to become deputy assistant secretary of state for African affairs. Mr. Freeman is being replaced on 4 April by Joseph Winder, currently deputy director of the State Department Policy and Planning Staff.

E. The announcement by the Thai Prime Minister that he would not extend the service for a second year of General Athit Kamlang-ek as supreme military commander and army commander in chief seems to have calmed matters in the country. A campaign had been growing for several months to pressure the government to allow the general to postpone his mandatory retirement an unprecedented second time. Coup rumors circulating at the time have died away, and apparently General Athit has accepted the verdict, which has caused the politicians and the media to heave a collective sigh of relief.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The Bureau got off to a good start on its AFP coverage by filing the first item at flash precedence. Some five hours before actually scheduled to commence coverage, the duty editor saw the first report on "rocket bombs" being fired at the American Embassy in Tokyo. After several quick follow-ups to the original item, the Bureau went back to its standby status until the agreed on starting time arrived.

2. Publishable wordage filed from ROSET totaled just over 90,000 words. This was down from February's total, but not down nearly as much as anticipated. The aftermath of the change of government in the Philippines continued to generate a respectable amount of copy. In addition, just as the Philippines was beginning to quiet down, the Sabah problems in Malaysia began to generate significant amounts of fileworthy material.

3. The clandestine radio Voice of the People of Malaysia returned to the air on the 20th. It had been unheard for over a month following a joint Thai-Malaysian military operation against guerrilla forces along the border. The radio is continuing the schedule and format used prior to interrupting operations. One unintended benefit brought about by the forced relocation of the station is that its signal strength now seems to be stronger than previously.

4. The discovery that a recording the Bureau made of CPSU Congress proceedings contained apparently the longest version of the speech by Vietnam's party leader Le Duan prompted MOD to request that the videotape be shipped expeditiously to Headquarters via DHL courier service. In addition, at AG's request the Bureau's Vietnamese monitors provided their observations on the state of Le Duan's health.

5. The Bureau received its first issue ever of the Vietnamese Army's theoretical journal TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN. After scrutinizing the wirefiled table of contents, AG promptly asked for two items, totaling over 12,000 words.

B. Communications

Communications through Clark Air Force Base continued to be spotty during the month. A total of 11 unplanned outages occurred which resulted in over 15 hours of down time.

C. Lateral Services

STAT

1. At the request of the office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in the Embassy, South Asian Unit monitor [redacted] translated a handwritten letter from Tamil into English. The letter concerned a case INS is working on. STAT

2. One item was processed at the request of the American Embassy in Laos.

3. The Thai National Intelligence Agency and the Australian Embassy have requested subscriptions to the JPRS serial publication: SOUTHEAST ASIA REPORT. The Bureau has requested the additional copies and will pass them on to the requestors as we receive them. In addition, an Embassy consumer and the NIA have requested subscriptions to the new JPRS issuance: NO UNCERTAIN TERMS. The request has been passed on to Headquarters and the Bureau will again act as middleman.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Cambodian monitor [redacted] resigned effective 29 March to take a job with VOA in Washington. In addition to candidates tested locally, London Bureau assisted in interviewing and testing a prospective candidate in England. The candidate will be evaluated following the arrival of the tests from London. STAT

2. The wife of South Asian Unit monitor [redacted] gave birth to a healthy baby daughter on the 19th in India. She is to be named [redacted] STAT

3. Federal length of service pins were given to 12 Bureau employees during the month. Two individuals -- [redacted] and [redacted] -- received 25-year pins, with the others ranging from 10 through 20 years. STAT

B. Visits

Anthony Kolankiewicz, State Department Cambodian/Lao desk officer, on the 3d for Bureau tour and familiarization. Regional Engineer [redacted] on TDY 5-9 March. STAT

[redacted]
Chief, Bangkok Bureau

STAT

RMB:cla

Attachment: Production Report

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BANGKOK BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR MARCH 1986

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	680,320
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	355,810
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1,482

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	21,310 min.	20,420 min.	254.00 issues
III. <u>OUTPUT FROM ROSET SOURCES:</u> (publishable words per month)			

INDONESIA

Jakarta ANTARA in English	8,110
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MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English	36,240
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PHILIPPINES

Manila PNA in English	46,170
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IV. OUTPUT FROM ALL OTHER SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)AUSTRALIA

Melbourne Overseas Service in English	19,180
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BANGLADESH

Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali	1,780	
Dhaka Domestic Service in English	7,810	
Dhaka Overseas Service in English	1,920	
Dhaka BSS in English		1,150
Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali		560
Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English		2,440

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
<u>BURMA</u>			
Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese	15,980		
Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese			1,650
Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English			490
<u>CAMBODIA</u>			
Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian	18,680		
Phnom Penh SPK in English		16,650	
Phnom Penh SPK in French		8,530	
<u>CHINA</u>			
Beijing International Service in Bengali	2,030		
Beijing International Service in Burmese	160		
Beijing in Cambodian to Cambodia	6,020		
Beijing in Hindi to India	240		
Beijing in Urdu to India and Pakistan	790		
<u>CLANDESTINE</u>			
(Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	20,290		
(Clandestine) Voice of Malayan Democracy in Malay	1,180		
(Clandestine) Voice of The National Army Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	13,750		
(Clandestine) Voice of The People of Malaysia in Malay	2,330		
(Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian	12,890		
(Clandestine) Voice of the People of Burma in Burmese	10,080		
<u>HONG KONG</u>			
Hong Kong AFP in English		12,020	

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
<u>INDIA</u>			
Delhi Domestic Service in English	45,370		
Delhi General Overseas Service in English	4,600		
Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English		2,940	
Delhi PTI in English		340	
Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English			780
Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English			780
Delhi PATRIOT in English			620
Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English			580
<u>INDONESIA</u>			
Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian	8,180		
Jakarta International Service in English	2,100		
Jakarta BERITA BUANA in Indonesian			100
Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian			760
Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian			140
Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian			230
Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English			590
<u>LAOS</u>			
Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao	43,540		
Vientiane KPL in English		17,770	
<u>MALAYSIA</u>			
Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English	3,060		
Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay	5,050		
Kuala Lumpur International Service in English	9,270		
Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay			470
Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English			600

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
<u>NEPAL</u>			
Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English			790
<u>PAKISTAN</u>			
Karachi Domestic Service in English	4,200		
Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu	18,530		
Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu	790		
<u>SINGAPORE</u>			
Singapore Domestic Service in English	4,340		
Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English			1,150
<u>SRI LANKA</u>			
Colombo Domestic Service in English	1,050		
Colombo International Service in English	11,830		
Colombo DAILY NEWS in English			1,570
Colombo SUN in English			810
Colombo WEEKEND in English			400
<u>THAILAND</u>			
Bangkok Domestic Service in English	1,150		
Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai	11,080		
Bangkok First Army Division Radio in Thai	4,260		
Bangkok Television Service in Thai	5,340		
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Cambodian	1,100		
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English	3,960		
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai	2,670		
Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English			15,590
Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English			2,330

	<u>BROAD--</u> <u>CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS</u> <u>AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI--</u> <u>CATION</u>
<u>THAILAND (continued)</u>			
Bangkok KHAO PHISSET in Thai			1,070
Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai			350
Bangkok MATICHON in Thai			2,770
Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai			4,150
Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN in Thai			2,800
Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai			2,090
Bangkok SU ANAKHOT in Thai			900
Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai			2,330
Bangkok THE NATION in English			29,110

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Moscow in Burmese to Burma	1,490		
Moscow in Cambodian to Cambodia	4,640		
Moscow in Hindi to India	640		
Moscow in Indonesian to Indonesia	1,430		
Moscow in Thai to Thailand	740		

VIETNAM

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese	66,650		
Hanoi International Service in English	6,020		
Hanoi International Service in Thai	420		
Hanoi VNA in English		1,110	
Hanoi VNA in Vietnamese to VNA Ho Chi Minh City		5,170	
Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese			22,970
Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese			900
Hanoi TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese			12,650